

Bethlehem & St. John Lutheran Churches

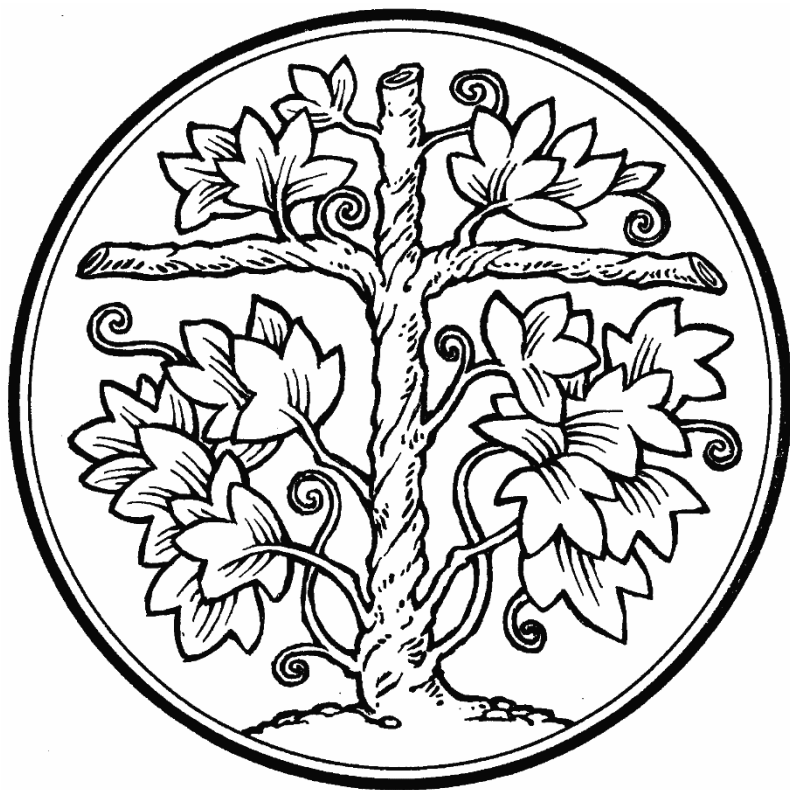
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod -

Dual Parish Office: 715-352-2888

www.stjbeth.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
233500 County Rd E
Milan, WI 54411

St. John Ev. Lutheran Church
119415 Huckleberry Rd
Edgar, WI 54426



The Fifth Sunday of Easter

May 2, 2021

Reverend Chad Schopp, Pastor

Divine Service III

Hymn: *Alleluia! Jesus Is Risen*

LSB 474

Confession and Absolution

Exhortation (p.184)

Kneel or stand as you are able

Corporate Confession (p.184)

Stand

Service of the Word

Kyrie (p.186)

Gloria in Excelsis (p.187)

Collect of the Day

P Let us pray.

O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

First Reading: Acts 8:26-40

²⁶An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. ²⁷And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship ²⁸and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. ²⁹And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” ³⁰So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” ³¹And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up

and sit with him. ³²Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,
so he opens not his mouth.

³³In his humiliation justice was denied him.
Who can describe his generation?
For his life is taken away from the earth.”

³⁴And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?”

³⁵Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. ³⁶And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch said, “See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?” ³⁸And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. ³⁹And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. ⁴⁰But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 150 (LSB 150) (responsively by whole verse)

Epistle: 1 John 4:1-21

¹Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. ²By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, ³and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. ⁴Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. ⁵They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. ⁶We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

⁷Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.

⁸Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. ⁹In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. ¹⁰In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

¹¹Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

¹²No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God abides in us and his love is perfected in us.

¹³By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. ¹⁴And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world.

¹⁵Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. ¹⁶So we have come to know and to believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him.

¹⁷By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world.

¹⁸There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love. ¹⁹We love because he first loved us. ²⁰If anyone says, "I love God," and hates his brother, he is a liar; for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen.

²¹And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia (p.190)

P The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the 15th chapter.

C **Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

Gospel: John 15:1-8

¹[Jesus said:] "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. ²Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the

branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. ⁵I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. ⁶If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. ⁷If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. ⁸By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

Nicene Creed (p.191)

Sit

Office hymn: *My Hope Is Built on Nothing Less*

LSB 575

Sermon

Offertory (p.192)

Announcements

Stand

Prayer of the Church

Service of the Sacrament

Preface (p.194)

Sanctus (p.195)

The Lord's Prayer (*spoken*)

The Words of Institution (p.197)

Pax Domini

Agnus Dei (p.198)

Sit

Distribution of the Sacrament

Hymns:

Lord Jesus Christ, We Humbly Pray
Lift High the Cross
All Depends on Our Possessing

LSB 623
LSB 837
LSB 732

Stand

Nunc Dimittus (p.199)

Post Communion Collect (p.201)

Benedicamus & Benediction (p.201)

Hymn: *On What Has Now Been Sown*

LSB 921

Announcements

Remember in our Prayers:

Leta Ebben

Pastor Schopp has received a call to serve Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne (CTSFW) as an Admissions Counselor. Please keep him in your prayers while he considers the call.

Thank You note: We wish to express our thanks to Pastor Schopp and everyone else who supported us with prayers, cards, visits, and kind words of encouragement since the loss of Dorothy. Also Thank you to the ladies who brought bars, etc, and everyone who helped with serving the lunch for the Celebration of Life gathering. God Bless you all, Wally Sprotte, Kelly & John, Lucy & Tom, Steve & Colleen, Nate & Amy and the Grandchildren.

Edgar Steam Show: The Steam club has asked if we are still willing to supply workers at the gates for the Edgar Steam Show, August 27th thru the 29th. We would like to continue, providing we have enough volunteers. In order to do this, we need 40 plus volunteers between Bethlehem and St. John members. **If you wish to volunteer there are sign- up sheets in the narthex at both St. John and Bethlehem** or you can call the church office at 715-352-2888.

St. John would like to enter a float in the Edgar Parade, Sunday, June 20th, but we will be needing volunteers to help pass out water. If you are able to help, there is a sign- up sheet in the narthex, or you can call the office 715-352-2888

St. John Lawn Mowing: We are in need of volunteers for lawn mowing!! The signup sheet with the 2017 lawn mowing schedule is on the library table in the narthex. Be sure to sign up now to get the week you want. If you wish, you can sign up with a group and arrange to have someone else mow. If you choose sign- up together with another person and pay someone else to mow we have a person who will mow at a reasonable price. Contact Pete VanDerLeest or Mike Thompson. Thank You.

Bethlehem - St. John Thrift sale will start on Thursday, May 6th. Sale runs until May 15th; from 9am to 4pm during the week and Saturdays from 9am to 12pm. No sale on Sunday, May 9th. We still need helpers to set up.

The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's Statement on Close Communion:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as He says, Our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but His very body and blood to eat and drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with Him and with one another. Our Lord invites to His table those who trust in His words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as He forgives and loves us, that they may show forth His death until He comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Sacrament, are asked to first speak with the Pastor.

(CTCR, *Admission to the Lord's Supper*, Nov 1999)

Teaching Points

Stole: A scarf-like fabric usually crafted in the color of the day or season, often bearing symbols appropriate to the day or season. It is worn over the shoulders of those ordained to the pastoral office.

From the Small Catechism

The Lord's Prayer: The Second Petition

Thy _____ come.

What does this mean?

The kingdom of God certainly comes by _____ without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may come to us also.

How does God's kingdom come?

God's kingdom comes when our heavenly Father gives us His Holy Spirit, so that by His grace we _____ His holy Word and lead godly _____ here in time and there in eternity.